

Wayne Allard

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SENATOR ALLARD ANNOUNCES COLORADO PILT FUNDING FOR FY 2005

Department of Interior allocates \$16.839 million to Colorado counties

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) announced today the final FY 2005 funding figures for the Department of Interior's Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, which will provide \$16.839 million in payments to Colorado counties.

The PILT program provides federal payments to local governments to help offset the property tax revenue they are unable to collect because there are nontaxable federal lands within their boundaries. These payments help local governments carry out vital services such as firefighting and police protection, construction of public schools and roads, and search-and-rescue operations.

"PILT payments ensure that the federal government is a good neighbor in local communities," Senator Allard said. "This is especially important in the case of the Bureau of Land Management, (BLM) which oversees more public land in our state, and nationwide, than any other federal agency."

"The PILT program is critical to Colorado local governments' ability to provide the services their citizens count on, particularly rural counties," Senator Allard said. "I'm pleased by the Department of Interior's announcement, and I will continue to support this program in the future."

In 2004, Senator Allard, working with Chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Senator Conrad Burns (R-Montana), was successful in obtaining an increase in overall PILT funding for 2005.

Looking forward to the 2006 budget, earlier this month Senator Allard obtained a substantive increase in funding for the PILT program in the Interior Appropriations bill, which the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee approved June 7. Senator Allard said he was successful in securing \$35 million more than had previously been budgeted for PILT.

"We obtained \$35 million above and beyond the amount asked for by the President in his 2006 budget request," said Senator Allard, a member of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. "This is \$8.2 million more than was provided for PILT in 2005."

"Despite an incredibly tight budget year, we still managed to meet our obligations to

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provide local governments with this critical funding,” Senator Allard said.

PILT payments are made annually for tax-exempt federal lands administered by the BLM, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (all agencies of the Interior Department), the U.S. Forest Service (part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture), and for federal water projects and some military installations.

The following Colorado counties are receiving PILT funding for FY 2005:

Alamosa County, \$107,594; Arapahoe County, \$6,538; Archuleta County, \$532,544; Baca County, \$272,453; Bent County, \$27,187; Boulder County, \$224,078; Chaffee County, \$721,257; Clear Creek County, \$105,292; Conejos County, \$567,871; Costilla County, \$1,247; Crowley County, \$6,045; Custer County, \$229,952; Delta County, \$80,267; Dolores County, \$83,558; Douglas County, \$194,078; Eagle County, \$868,094; El Paso County, \$139,587; Fremont County, \$637,062; Garfield County, \$808,348; Gilpin County, \$47,548; Grand County, \$518,100; Gunnison County, \$324,597; Hinsdale County, \$72,468; Huerfano County, \$161,435; Jackson County, \$102,056; Jefferson County, \$140,799; Kiowa County, \$7,807; La Plata County, \$551,526; Lake County, \$247,860; Larimer County, \$1.108 million; Las Animas County, \$320,722; Lincoln County, \$2,480; Mesa County, \$1.561 million; Mineral County, \$84,116; Moffat County, \$330,794; Montezuma County, \$157,667; Montrose County, \$1.283 million; Morgan County, \$3,954; Otero County, \$244,021; Ouray County, \$205,654; Park County, \$875,622; Pitkin County, \$473,887; Pueblo County, \$88,061; Rio Blanco County, \$246,438; Rio Grande County, \$422,437; Routt County, \$571,089; Saguache County, \$456,617; San Juan County, \$42,436; San Miguel County, \$96,447; Sedgwick County, \$321; Summit County, \$164,471; Teller County, \$221,017; Washington County, \$158; Weld County, \$39,069; Yuma County, \$1,478.

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